

Amendments to the claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of controlling a back light of a display device included in a programmable controller which cyclically executes a user program; said method comprising the steps of:

providing at least one display setting data group including a message to be displayed on said display device, and a control command for switching on and off said back light, a display start column number and a display line number indicating display position of said message;

extracting said display start column number and said display line number from the specified display setting data group; and

specifying a parameter in a user program of said programmable controller, thereby selectively specifying one of said at least one display setting data group, wherein said back light is switched on and off according to the control command included in the specified display setting data group and wherein said parameter is specified in a display command that is a command to display said message.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said user program is stored in a user program memory which is different from a system program memory that stores a system program for said programmable controller.

Claim 3 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said control command controls switching on and off of said back light, said control command causing said back light to be switched on and then switched off after a specified time length has elapsed.

Claims 4, 5 and 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (currently amended): A programmable controller having a display device having a back light, said display device being provided with at least one display setting data group including a message to be displayed on said display device, and a control command for switching on and off said back light, a display start column number and a display line number indicating display position of said message, said programmable controller comprising:

an extracting means for selectively specifying one of said at least one display setting data group by a parameter and extracting a control command from the specified display setting data group and said display start column number and said display line number from the specified display setting data group, said parameter being included in a user program of said programmable controller addressed to said display device and serving to selectively specifying said specified display setting data group;

a control means for controlling switching on and off of said back light according to said control command extracted by said extracting means;

an execution means that executes said user program cyclically;

a system program memory that stores a system program for said control means; and

a user program memory which is different from said system program memory and stores said user program.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The programmable controller of claim 7 wherein said parameter is included in a display command that is a command to display as said message.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The programmable controller of claim 7 wherein said control command controls switching on and off of said back light, said control command causing said back light to be switched on and then switched off after a specified time length has elapsed.

Claims 10-16 (canceled).